

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-10, 14-20, 22-24, 26, 28-34, 36, and 37 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 14, 22, 30, 36, and 37 are independent claims. In the Office Action mailed on September 8, 2005, Claims 10, 14-20, 30-34, and 36 are allowed; Claims 1, 6-8, 22-24, 26, 29, and 37 stand rejected over Rause (U.S. Patent No. 3,156,988); and Claims 5, 9, and 28 were found to contain patentable subject matter and to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The applicants thank the Examiner for his thorough review of the present application.

In order to facilitate allowance of the application and a quicker issuance, the applicants herein amend independent Claim 1 to include the limitations from Claim 9 and amends independent Claim 22 to include the limitations from Claim 28. Claims 9 and 28 are therefore canceled and these claims, including their dependent claims, are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 5, 6, 7, and 37 are also canceled so that all of the remaining claims are believed to have been found allowable by the Examiner.

In addition to the amendments to Claims 1 and 22 described above, a number of minor and obvious amendments to the claims have been made, as shown above, that are believed to simply clarify the claims, without changing the scope of the claims or adding any new matter.

In addition, dependent Claim 8 is herein amended to delete the phrase "orthogonally from said toe region or said heel region of said outsole body in a selected amount." It was believed that this phrase was not needed for patentability and introduced undue ambiguity into the intended meaning and scope of Claim 8.

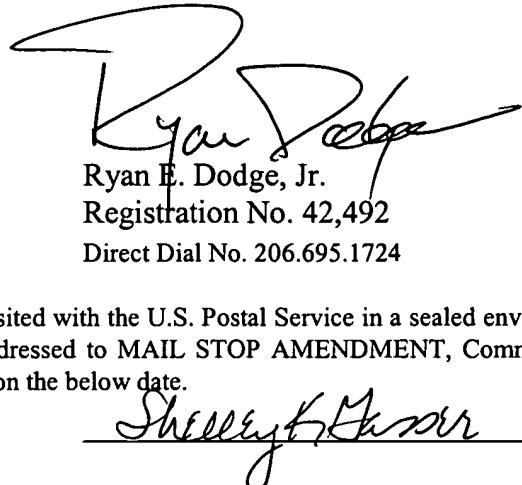
After entry of these amendments, Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 14-20, 22-24, 26, 29, 30-34, and 36 remain pending. All of these claims have been found to be allowable. Entry of the amendments and a favorable disposition are therefore respectfully requested.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned directly if there remain any questions or issues in this matter that might be resolved telephonically.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



Ryan E. Dodge, Jr.
Registration No. 42,492
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1724

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: December 23, 2005



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LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100